

Arizona Writing Standard Performance Level Descriptors Grade 3

Exceeds the Standard – Students who score in this level illustrate a superior academic performance as evidenced by achievement that is substantially beyond the goal for all students. Students who perform at this level demonstrate the ability to identify and apply good written communications by expressing ideas that are clear and focused, employing a broad range of descriptive vocabulary, revealing a personal voice, using smooth transitions, and making few errors in basic conventions.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level demonstrate a solid academic performance on subject matter as reflected by the writing standard. Students who perform at this level are able to identify elements of good communication and apply basic rules of capitalization, punctuation, and subject-verb agreement. They can express ideas that relate to the topic, create a beginning, middle, and end, with some hint of transition, use some variety of word choice, and utilize basic punctuation correctly.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show the ability to use some of the basic elements of written communication by demonstrating partial awareness of a beginning, middle, and end, writing simple sentences that are usually complete, and using capitalization and punctuation to show where sentences begin and end. Some gaps in knowledge and skills are evident and may require additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s writing standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express ideas that are clear and focused, developing the main idea with supporting details. Create a beginning that captures the reader’s interest and an ending that provides resolution. Show an awareness of audience and purpose while revealing a personal voice. Employ a broad range of descriptive vocabulary. Vary the sentence structure and use smooth transitions to make oral reading easy and enjoyable. Make few errors in the basic conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Spell high frequency words correctly. Use conventions that enhance the organization or voice (such as paragraphs, bold print, expressive punctuation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express ideas that relate to the topic and some relevant details that provide support. Create a beginning, middle, and end, with some hint of transition between these. Use some variety of word choice to show some personal voice and an awareness of audience. Write simple sentences and occasionally more complex sentences, with a variety of sentence beginnings. Use capital letters and basic punctuation correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express a main idea and purpose somewhat unclearly or not developed completely. Show some awareness of beginning, middle, and end. Write simple sentences that are usually complete. Use capitalization and punctuation to show where sentences begin and end.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Writing Standard.